



R & D NEWS



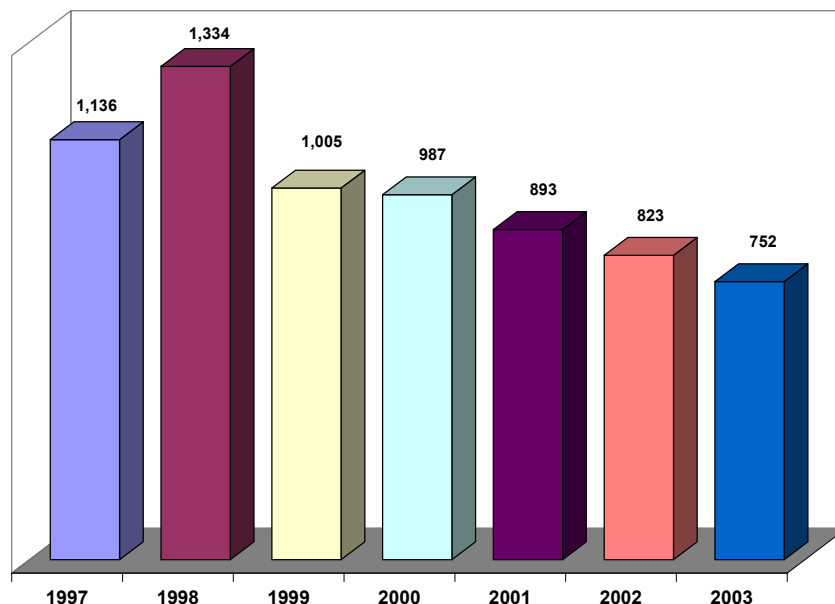
Janet Napolitano, Governor
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Cynthia Perez McCluskey, Understanding Latino Delinquency, LFB Scholarly Publishing, 2002.

Ms. Perez McCluskey used data from the Denver Youth Study and the Rochester Youth Development Study to determine if traditional strain theory applied to Latinos in the same way it does to other ethnic groups. She found that strain theory was less able to explain Latino delinquency than it was able to explain White or African American delinquency. Strain theory was one of the first theories which linked delinquency to social structure. "The theory of anomie (or strain) proposes that the disjunction between common economic success goals and access to the legitimate means of achieving those goals (education, employment) creates the pressure to engage in illegal behavior to achieve success." The author found that poor individuals i.e., those receiving public assistance, reported higher levels of strain. This finding is consistent with traditional strain theory which is a class based theory. The author found that there were no significant differences in strain across racial categories. Among those not receiving public assistance, however, minorities had higher levels of strain than Whites. This finding suggests that race is related to strain. Perez McCluskey found that minority groups were no more likely

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA

Is Arizona juvenile crime increasing or decreasing?

to externalize blame than Whites. This finding is inconsistent with strain theory. She also found that delinquent peers were less likely to strengthen Latino delinquent values or reinforce their delinquent behavior than was true for White and African Americans. Moreover, families had the greatest impact upon Latinos. "Within the Denver Youth Survey, an increase in Latino family involvement significantly reduced delinquent values and association with delinquent peers."

Wyoming Statistical Analysis Center, *Wyoming's Juvenile Female Treatment and Prevention Programs*, October 2003.

The purpose of this project was to identify promising treatment and prevention programs beneficial to Wyoming's at-risk juvenile females. The researchers found that females in Wyoming were most at risk for violating liquor laws, larceny/theft and possession of illegal drugs. In fact, between 1990 and 2001, Wyoming's juvenile females had a 38% increase in liquor law violations and a 997% increase in arrests for the sale or possession of illegal drugs. Marijuana was their preferred illegal drug. The report recommended eight criteria for gender specific programming including "address mental health and substance abuse need, and look beyond violence and self-destructive behavior to possible underlying problems such as depression or previous victimization." The researchers also found that there were 567 service providers in Wyoming that provided services to females yet only 52 of them provided assistance just to females. The researchers have developed a web-based information center to provide information to program administrators on gender-specific programs. The information can be found by going to <http://uwyo.edu/wysac> and going to the reports link titled "Juvenile Gender Specific Programming."

Curtis VanderWaal, Duane McBride, Yvonne Terry-McElrath and Holly Van Buren, *Breaking the Juvenile Drug-Crime Cycle: A Guide for Practitioners and Policymakers*, National Institute of Justice, May 2001.

The purpose of this study is to report on research conducted on programs that are designed to address the connection between juvenile drug usage and crime. VanderWaal et al., found that non-institutional programs showing consistent evidence of effectiveness were individualized counseling, interpersonal skills training and behavioral programs such as family counseling. Weak non-institutionalized programs were such things as wilderness programs, early release and vocational programs. These researchers found that programs for serious juvenile offenders who were non-institutionalized were more successful than programs for non-serious juvenile offenders. Relatively successful institutional based programs included such things as interpersonal skills training, and *teaching family homes*. Weak institutional based programs included such things as milieu therapy, short-term residential facilities and state training schools. The authors found that "...there has been little research conducted to assess the effectiveness of treatment approaches with minority juvenile substance abusers."

ARIZONA JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER

According to official reports, juvenile crime in Arizona is decreasing. In fact, the number of juvenile arrests has decreased since 1996, and the percentage of Arizona violent and property crimes cleared by juvenile arrest has also decreased. Meanwhile, the number of juvenile petitions increased through 2000, and then decreased in 2001 and 2002.